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Approved For Release 2002/08/12 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001100100017-6

DOCUMENT NO. 18

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. IF

DECLASSIFIED

CLASS CHANGED TO: IS S C

NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____

AUTH: HR 70-2

DATE: 12-26-77 REVIEWER: AL []

NSC BRIEFING

28 October 1959

BACKGROUND

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I. French and Algerian rebels each waiting for other to take initiative in talks concerning an Algerian cease-fire.

A. In mid-October rebel leaders reportedly asked the French--

[] for clarification of De Gaulle's proposals.

B. Although some room for agreement appears to exist, the rebels are anxious to avoid any suggestion of capitulation, while the French are unwilling to "recognize" rebels in any way.

C. Situation is confused by activities of self-styled intermediaries, and recent uncompromising statements by French rightists in both Paris and Algiers.

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II. In Algeria, tension is high among both European settlers and French army.

A. Security director for city of Algiers has stated slightest provocation could send Europeans "into the streets."

1. Unlike May 1958, however, cooperation between extremist settlers and army is not too close.

B. Army is torn between loyalty to De Gaulle and bitter hostility toward any cease-fire which does not involve surrender of weapons.

III. The 400-mile 24-inch pipelines from Hassi Messaoud will begin delivering oil to port of Bougie by mid-November.

A. Initial capacity is expected to be about 7 million tons a year.

1. French hope to double this by 1961.

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